

Peter Hertzog Theological Hall
On the campus of New Brunswick Theological Seminary,
facing Seminary Place, between George Street
and College Avenue, 17 Seminary Place
New Brunswick
Middlesex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-717

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

PETER HERTZOG THEOLOGICAL HALL

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Location: 17 Seminary Place, On the campus of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, facing Seminary Place, between George Street and College Avenue, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Present Owner: New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Present Occupant: New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Present Use: Administration, apartments, dormitory, refectory.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is the first building of its own which was occupied by the Seminary. Previously it had occupied the Queen's Building with Rutgers College. It has been the center of Seminary life and activity for more than a century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Theological Seminary.
2. Date of Erection: 1856.
3. Architect: Messrs. King and Kellum, 179 Broadway, New York.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: A number of the single rooms have been changed to apartments for married students.
5. References:
 - a. Old and new photos, miscellaneous clippings, and drawings of interior arrangements are in the Gardner A. Sage Library, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 721 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
 - b. "New Theological Hall at New Brunswick," The Christian Intelligencer, Vol. XXVI, No. 20 (Nov. 15, 1855), p. 78.

- B. Supplemental Information: The following is extracted from "New Theological Hall at New Brunswick," The Christian Intelligencer, Vol. XXVI, No. 20 (Thursday, November 15, 1855), p. 78:

Laying of the Corner-Stone

. . . The following is a description of the building as furnished by the architects, Messrs. King and Kellum, 179 Broadway, N. Y.

The College will be a plain, substantial edifice, in the Grecian style; the basement built of stone from the Trenton quarries, and above the basement, of brick, 19 inches thick (two 8 inch walls, and 3 inch hollow space for circulation of air).

The plan of the College is a centre building and two wings, basement, and three stories in height. [sic] Centre building 52 x 63 feet, basement story 10 feet high; the first and second stories each 15 feet; the third story 12 feet, and from the ground to the top of the dome 90 feet. The basement is furnished as a residence for the Janitor. On the first story is a chapel 30 x 49, and two Professors' rooms, each 17 by 23 and one-half feet. The third story is appropriated for the use of the students, arranged with five rooms for studies, each 10 x 20 feet, and five dormitories, each 7 x 10 feet.

The wings are each 39 x 71 feet; basement stories 10 feet; the first story 11 feet; the second story 10 feet; third story 9 feet. The basements of wings are to be fitted up for use as refectorial and furnace rooms. The first, second, and third stories of wings are to be appropriated exclusively for the use of students, and contain 48 studies, each 7 x 14 feet. Each study and dormitory is connected by a door. The building will be warmed by furnaces, lighted with gas, and well ventilated, and will accommodate 106 students. The plan is so arranged that additional wings may be added whenever required, and yet preserve the symmetry and harmony of the building.

Prepared by Peter N. Vanden Berge, Librarian
New Jersey Historical Sites Evaluation
January 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This is a large, three-story building with gable roofs, and a cupola, characterized by simple massing, restrained use of detail, and regular fenestration pattern.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

- ### B. Technical Description of Exterior:
- The building is made up of a nearly square central section flanked by long wings.

The gable roof of the center section is at right angles to the gable roofs of the wings and is surmounted by a domed lantern. The center section of the building is capped by a pediment with crown mould and sawn scroll modillions. Cornices of the wings are similar. The main entrance is covered by a gable roofed porch with a similar though smaller scaled pediment supported by two pair of coupled columns at the front. It is reached by a long flight of brick steps with stone treads and wrought iron railings.

1. Foundations: Cut brown-stone about seven feet high above grade, with six light over six light double hung wood windows.
2. Wall construction: Brick coated with stucco, recently painted white center section with gray window trim; wings painted gray with white window trim. Main pediment painted turquoise. Cornices, porch and lantern white.
3. Lantern: The large cupola or lantern is square in plan with a full entablature with denticulated cornice. Coupled columns are set diagonally at the four corners with the cornice stepped out in sharp projection over them. On each of the four sides is a heavy open louvre. The top is a tall, copper covered dome with a metal weather vane.
4. Openings: The heavy main door has six raised panels and is flanked by side-lights and a transom in a pilastered frame. The large wood windows of the main section are double hung, six over six light on the third floor and longer nine over nine light windows on the first and second floors. The center windows of the second and the third floors have side-lights and the center window of the second floor has slatted shutters. The wood windows of the wings are also generous in size, double hung, six over six light.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Central hall leading to a large room, with a dining room at the rear. In recent years one end of this large room has been partitioned off to form a Kitchen, which was originally in the basement. Originally there was a cross hall, running the full length of the building. This has been blocked off at the center section to accommodate apartments for married students, which are reached by entrances at each end of the building. Rooms on each side of the entrance serve as offices. Originally, the rooms on the second floor were class rooms and those

on the third floor for single students. Now, the second and third floors of the wing to the left house single students, while the first floor and the entire right wing have apartments for married students. The large rear room on the second floor, over the dining room, has been converted into a chapel with a semidomed apse, furnished with pews, raised platform, and a pulpit. Another large room on the second floor has been turned into a student lounge. The ceiling heights of the first and second floors of the center section are much higher than in the other portions of the building, and to reach the cross hall of the second floor at the left, one descends a flight of half a dozen steps from the center hall.

The basement has a nine-and-a-half foot ceiling height. The wing on the right has recently been fitted with a student book store, laundry rooms with washing machines and dryers and two more apartments for married students. Under the center section, an additional faculty office has been added with an exterior door under the entrance porch and interior access by an original stairway under the main stairs. The rest of the space and that under the left wing is given over to boiler room, maintenance and storage.

2. Stairs: The main stairs from the first to the second floor and from the second to the third floor are single flights without landings and curved at the top with winders. The hand rail starts from a turned newel post at the first floor and runs continuous to the third floor. Handrail, balusters and newel post are heavy.
3. Trim: Door and window trim and baseboard are heavy, moulded and very wide.
4. Lighting fixtures: All modern electric.

Prepared by George Brokaw Howell
Architect, Rutgers University (ret.)
New Brunswick, New Jersey
December 1960